

APPENDIX

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A method of detecting a deposit (D) that might form inside a fluid transport pipe (2), the method [being characterized in that it consists] comprising:

· [in] applying a thermal gradient (G) to at least one "active" zone (Za) of the outside surface of the pipe;

· [in] measuring the heat flux (F) in at least one zone (Zm) of the outside surface of the pipe that is situated at a given distance from the active zone in consideration of the length of the pipe; and

· [in] detecting when the heat flux corresponding at least in part to the applied thermal gradient and transmitted by the pipe exceeds a determined threshold indicative of the presence of a deposit inside the pipe.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or claim 2, characterized in that it consists in] comprising applying a thermal gradient (G) in an active zone (Za) constituting a circumference of the pipe.

4. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it consists in] claim 1, comprising applying a thermal gradient (G) via a heat production source (3) fitted to or integrated in the pipe.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or claim 5,

characterized in that it consists in] comprising measuring the heat flux (F) by means of a heat flux sensor (7) fitted to or integrated in the pipe.

10. (Amended) An installation according to claim 8 [or claim 9], characterized in that the control and monitoring means (5) comprise means for detecting the peak values of the measured heat flux signal so that the peak-to-peak value of the signal can be compared with the threshold value indicating the presence of a deposit inside the pipe.